THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Information regarding Pakistan sponsored terrorism and the existing terrorist infrastructure, in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territories, for support to terrorism is appropriately shared with other countries as a part of the global effort against international terrorism. Pakistan's continued involvement with and support for cross border terrorism is widely recognised and most countries have called upon Pakistan to fulful its commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism.

(c) The international community has shown increasing understanding of India's position that terrorism must be eradicated wherever it may exist, that there can be no justification for terrorism and the battle against terrorism would have to be global and comprehensive to succeed.

America's Attitude on Kashmir Issue

†959. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in Rashtriya Sahara on the 31st July, 2002 under the caption, "America ne Bharat ki aapatti thukrayee, Kashmir anterrashtriya mudda, kai desh suljhane mein ruchi lenge";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are of the view that America will support India overlooking their interests in Pakistan; and

(d) if not, whether Government would review its foreign policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government has seen the report referred to in the question.

(b) Government has noted that the United States has, on a number of occasions, stated that all outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir issue, must be resolved through direct bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan, for which a framework has been provided by the Simla Agreement, and that the United States does not seek a mediatory role between the two countries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) It has been Government's position that India and Pakistan must resolve all outstanding issues through direct bilateral dialogue and that there is no role for any third party in the process. Government has also noted that the United States acknowledges Pakistan's links with, and its Government's responsibility to take steps to end, cross-border terrorism in India.

(d) Government will continue to pursue a foreign policy based on India's national interests.

American Ambassador's views on Investment

†960. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Bharat mein videshi nivesh ke liye mahol anukool nahin", published in the Punjab Kesari, Delhi edition, dated the 30th October, 2002;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these views have been expressed by America's ambassador to India;

(c) if so, whether Government have got this confirmed from the American Embassy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The report is based on a speech delivered by the U.S. Ambassador at a function organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 29 October 2002 in Delhi. The U.S. Ambassador had spoken about the new relationship between India and the United States, the high priority that the United States attaches to this relationship and about the U.S. perception of the need for further economic reforms in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.